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U.S. CHARGES 35 IN 'OPERATION DOUBLE TROUBLE'
WITH HEROIN DISTRIBUTION IN 2 BRONX NEIGHBORHOODS

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, today announced that the United States charged 35 individuals with participating in heroin-distribution organizations in the Bronx. The individuals were charged in two separate Indictments unsealed yesterday in Manhattan federal court. Authorities dubbed the investigation "Operation Double Trouble."

The two organizations, operating on Daly Avenue and Vyse Avenue, respectively, are alleged to have been responsible for tens of thousands of hand-to-hand retail heroin transactions over a period of several years.

According to the Indictment, the "Daly Avenue Organization," led by DAVID DELAROSA, and the "Vyse Avenue Organization," led by VICTOR VIRELLA, dominated parallel three-block stretches of Daly and Vyse Avenue between East 179th Street and Bronx Park South. The defendants sold heroin on these blocks

all day and late into the night, it was charged. The Daly Avenue Organization allegedly sold heroin with the brand names "Fresh Fish," "Sean John," "J. Lo," "5 Star," "Brain Storm on Arrival," or "Red Devil"; the Vyse Avenue Organization allegedly used the brand names "Aleve," "Absolute Power," "AP," "Exxon," and "X."

In addition to DAVID DELAROSA and VICTOR VIRELLA, the Indictments charge WILLIAM DELAROSA, a/k/a "Wito," ROBERT MELENDEZ, EMENSON PETERS, a/k/a "M.O.," ERVEN JEAN, PAUL BLACKMOND, BRIAN BROCK, RAYMOND OGLESBY, ROB UNDERWOOD, RUBEN RAMOS, OSCAR CAESAR, SAMUEL ASIEDU, MICHAEL GREEN, BRANDON GREEN, BERNARD WHEELER, ANGEL MARTINEZ, ARNALDO GENER, RAYMOND CASTILLO, CANDIDO SERRANO, and ALEXIS HERNANDEZ with participation in the Daly Avenue Organization, and FELIX VAZQUEZ, a/k/a "Phil," ALBERTO ROSARIO, a/k/a "Berto," REINALDO TORRES, a/k/a "Toto," ANTHONY MIRANDA, a/k/a "Ed," EPPIE BENITEZ, a/k/a "Pito," MARIA CANINI, a/k/a "Elsie," ISMAEL CANINI, a/k/a "Bist," RUBEN CANINI, a/k/a "Tase," MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Shine," CARLOS COLON, JOSE RIVERA, ANGEL LOPEZ, JUAN ORTEGA, and LUIS TORRES with participation in the Vyse Avenue Organization.

If convicted, the defendants face maximum penalties of life in prison, a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$4 million.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Bronx Major Case Unit of the New York City Police Department, which concluded a year-long undercover investigation into the

Daly and Vyse Avenue Organizations, and thanked the Drug Enforcement Administration for its assistance.

Assistant United States Attorneys JACOB W. BUCHDAHL and WILLIAM C. KOMAROFF are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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